

Upper New River Area Drainage Master Plan

Purpose and Need

For more than 45 years, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County (District) has provided regional flood control services to County residents to reduce their risks of injury, death, and property damage from flooding. Preparing Area Drainage Master Plans is one method the District uses to meet these goals. The purpose of the Upper New River Area Drainage Master Plan (ADMP) is to identify flooding and erosion hazards in the study area and develop cost effective, sustainable solutions that alleviate these hazards.

Objectives

Specific objectives of the Upper New River ADMP include:

- Identifying the flooding and related hazards in the study area and quantify the extent of existing and future potential flooding hazards.
- Preparing FEMA floodplain delineations for selected washes.
- Identifying tributaries and reaches of the Upper New River that should remain undisturbed based on the extent of existing or potential future flooding and erosion hazards or their unique natural or physical characteristics.
- Developing cost-effective, sustainable flood and erosion control solutions that minimize impacts to the environment, consider scenic and recreational resources, and maintain the quality of life for current and future residents.
- Working with the public and stakeholders to incorporate their interests, issues, and concerns while developing the flood control solutions.
- Developing a plan that will be implemented and used by local, state and federal governments as well as private land owners.



Bedrock Channel New River



New River at Old Stage Road



Sonoran Desert in Study Area



Gavilan Peak Wash

Study Area

The Upper New River ADMP study area is 97 square miles and is located within the city of Phoenix, the city of Peoria, and unincorporated Maricopa County. Approximately 73 percent of the land in the study area is owned by the Arizona State Land Department. Private ownership accounts for 16 percent of the land and federal and local government owns the remaining 11 percent. Most of the Upper New River ADMP study area is undeveloped and relatively pristine, undisturbed Sonoran Desert. However, within the next five years, development is pending, especially along Carefree Highway, the planned Loop 303 Estrella Freeway, and New River Road west of I-17.

Schedule

The Upper New River ADMP started in August 2006 and will be completed by May 2008. The ADMP will be completed in two phases. Phase 1 consists of data collection, hazard identification, floodplain delineation, and preliminary alternative development. Phase 2 consists of additional technical analysis, refining the preliminary alternatives, alternatives analysis, and developing the recommended alternatives.

Public and Stakeholder Involvement

The District will have three public meetings over the course of the project. The purpose of the three public meetings respectively is to collect data about flooding problems, gather input on the alternatives, and to present the recommended alternatives. In order to obtain input from the stakeholders, the District will have regular stakeholder workgroup meetings.

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